On an old, pre-sealed concrete slab, you must first test if the old sealer is still active. If water still beads up, use a compatible solvent-based acrylic or strip the old layer. If water absorbs quickly, a penetrating Silane-Siloxane sealer like Ghostshield Siloxa-Tek 8500 works best. YouTube · Deco-Crete TV +5

Testing Compatibility

- **Water Drop Test**: Splash water on the slab. If it beads, an old topical sealer is present; if it absorbs within a minute, the pores are open. YouTube · CoverTec Products
- **Solvent Check**: Rub a small spot with xylene. If the surface softens, it is an acrylic topcoat, requiring a matching acrylic recoat or complete chemical stripping. YouTube · CoverTec Prod… +1

Choosing the Right Sealer Type

- **Penetrating Silane-Siloxane (Water or Solvent-Based)**: Use if the old sealer has worn off and the concrete is bare and porous. It leaves a natural look and will not peel.
- **Solvent-Based Acrylic**: Use if the previous coat was an acrylic. It bonds to existing acrylic layers better than water-based options. YouTube · Deco-Crete TV +1

Preparation Steps

- **Clean Thoroughly**: Power wash or scrub with a degreaser to remove dirt and oils.
- **Strip if Needed**: Peel away failing or incompatible old sealers using a chemical stripper so the new product can bond properly.
- **Dry Completely**: Let the concrete dry for at least 24 to 48 hours after washing before application. YouTube · Odell Complet… +1